

# A Letter from Fr. Patrick Kizza

December 7, 2025

As we enter the Second Sunday of Advent, the Church places before us the powerful figure of John the Baptist—the voice crying out in the desert, urging us to “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” His message is simple yet urgent: *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* John reminds us that Advent is not only a season of waiting—it is a season of spiritual awakening.

John the Baptist’s call to repentance is not a message of fear but of transformation. As St. Augustine beautifully wrote, *“God who created you without you will not save you without you.”* In other words, grace invites us to respond. We cannot simply rely on our identity, our traditions, or our past. John says to the Pharisees and Sadducees, *“Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.”* This is a call to active discipleship—to allow the Lord to reshape our hearts and priorities.

Consider the example of a garden. No matter how rich the soil, fruit only grows when the gardener tills, waters, and removes what hinders growth. So too in our spiritual lives, God provides the grace, but we must cooperate—removing the stones of pride, clearing the weeds of selfishness, and planting seeds of kindness, forgiveness, and charity. As St. John Chrysostom taught, *“Repentance is a medicine that destroys sin; a gift bestowed from heaven.”* We do not repent to earn God’s love—we repent because God already loves us deeply and desires our freedom.

John the Baptist’s simplicity also challenges us. His camel-hair clothing and diet of locusts and wild honey show us a man whose life matched his message. He reminds us today, in a world of noise and abundance, to live with intention. John points not to himself but to Christ: *“The one who is coming after me is mightier than I.”* Advent invites us to ask: *Do my words and choices point others toward Christ? Do I prepare room for Him in my daily life?*

## Parish News

It is with sadness that I announce that **Fr. Hennessy is retiring from Saint Patrick Church**. We are profoundly grateful for his many years of wholehearted service, dedication, and pastoral care to our parish community. Saint Patrick Parish will soon organize a Thanksgiving (Retirement) Mass to honor him, celebrate his ministry, and express our heartfelt appreciation. More details will be shared as plans are finalized.

I am also pleased to share some encouraging news: **our October Mass count increased slightly from last year**. Thank you for your commitment to attending Mass and your efforts in inviting family members and friends. Evangelization begins with simple invitations, and you are living that call beautifully. As Pope Francis reminds us, *“Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Finally, I invite the men of our parish to grow spiritually through a new opportunity. **Beginning Saturday, December 13th, 2025**, and continuing every third Saturday of the month from **7:30–8:30 AM**, we will gather in the community room to meditate on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. Bring your coffee, bring a donut, and bring an open heart as we reflect on God’s Word and strengthen one another in faith.

As we continue through Advent, may the voice of John the Baptist echo in our hearts. Let us prepare the way of the Lord—through repentance, through service, and through renewed commitment to Christ who comes to bring us life.

-Fr. Patrick